

I thought I'd take this opportunity to talk about an upcoming change coming to residents in South Norfolk. This change is not exactly fun or exciting but it does have implications and effects upon the day to day of every person in the district. As you may well have heard there are going to be changes involving our bins and home recycling processes that will be taking place in the latter half of this year. As it stands, it seems that this is already being met with confusion and irritation as the rumours and examples from the other side of the Norfolk/Suffolk border seem to suggest that what will be required is particularly fiddly, awkward and inconvenient.

Now, I can't say that there won't be an element of inconvenience and awkwardness caused by these changes and I'm certainly hoping that the management and administration of them are handled better in South Norfolk. However, the larger picture, and one that I think most of us agree on is that the principles of recycling are positive and necessary even if it is generally a little bit more difficult and involved as a process.

With this being said, I do believe that there will need to be a great deal of clarity about the changes that are coming and that is something I will be strongly advocating for South Norfolk Council to provide to all residents. Ultimately, the less confused people are, the more likely they are to engage with what is being asked, particularly if that thing is broadly a positive thing for everyone concerned and the planet as a whole.

On another unrelated note, I will not be making any significant statements regarding Local Government Reorganisation. Mainly this is because so many others across the political spectrum have already spoken about it and there isn't really much more I can add to the debate. Perhaps more importantly though, we simply don't know what the outcome will be so perhaps it is simply best to wait and see.

All I will do is reiterate that I believe LGR is needed and is long overdue. Our current system of local government has been in place for over 50 years and is simply not fit for purpose in the 21st Century. What we may well see with LGR is not going to be perfect either but I believe that whatever form it takes is likely to be an improvement upon what we have currently.

As always if you or anyone you know needs help with anything council related then please feel free to contact me at james.eddy@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk or visit me at my next councillor surgery at Harleston Information Plus on Saturday 30th May between 10am and 12.

All the best,

James